



JULIA FIKSINSKI

An administrative decision made earlier this year prevented Senior House from accepting any freshman residents this fall.

Turnaround team has held its first meeting

S3 staff member to live in Senior House

By Isabelle Phinney and Ally Huske

Due to concerns of low graduation rates and illegal drug use, Senior House was withdrawn from the freshmen housing lottery and FYRE this year.

The class of 2020 received notice of Senior House's withdrawal two days before the housing lottery was originally set to close and were granted an extra three days to submit

the application.

As *The Tech* previously reported, only six freshmen ranked Senior House as first in their application. However, in previous years, typically between 15 and 30 freshmen ranked Senior House first. At the time of the announcement, more than 800 freshmen had submitted their applications. The discrepancy may be due to the deadline or simply to the

Senior, Page 3

New DormCon lays out year's goals

The Dormitory Council had its first meeting of the year last Thursday. Located in Maseeh, the two hour long meeting meandered through issues such as dining, summer storage, font sizes, security, and the ideal location of kitchens in dorms.

With the new year comes a new executive and new objectives. Kate Farris '17, DormCon president, and Ji Yuge '18, vice-president, listed via email the renewal of the dining contract, improving the dorm security experience, and improving PartySafe training as upcoming issues and goals.

Acknowledging current relevant issues on campus, they

added, "DormCon also supports individual communities as needed, including Senior House and New House, and on other issues as they come up during the year."

But it was an issue with CPW funding that sparked a rapid back and forth. "New House spends \$1,200 on CPW," Sarah Wharton '17, New House president said, "we're supposed to be advertising MIT." Although other dorm presidents agreed, Sarah Melvin '18, Senior House president, raised concerns about the hypothetical funding change: "[Funding it ourselves] does give us some control. Otherwise, MIT can make CPW whatever they want it to be."

—Olivia Brode-Roger

Class of 2020 sticks with New House

Lack of clarity did not deter freshmen from wanting to live in dorm

By Melody Tan

The future of New House — which might include demolition or renovation after May 2017 — is uncertain.

What is certain is that the current New House building will not house residents in the coming years, making way for work crews who will address issues caused by flood damage and corroded steam risers.

Incoming freshmen were not formally informed of the development

when filling out their housing lottery. However, the news circulated widely last spring, and New House government informed all new residents upon arrival. This raised concerns that freshmen would rank New House low on the housing lottery list or use FYRE to move to another dorm.

Despite the impending closure, many freshmen don't appear to have changed their opinions about the dorm.

The Tech spoke with several New

House freshmen about their experiences with the plans. Conrad Goffinet '20 recalled that he had heard about the plans for New House while filling out the housing application.

The news "did not affect my decision," he said. Though Goffinet later did switch to East Campus, he said he moved because he "enjoyed the culture more and had also made friends in East Campus."

Other residents factored the

New, Page 3



BACK AND FORTH ON THE FIELD

MIT football faces Becker-SPORTS, p. 10

HEY KIDS!! COMIX

How would Rembrandt do it? FUN, p. 6

SECTIONS

Weather.2
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PUTTING ON A FACE

A successful application essay. CAMPUS LIFE, p. 12

WHEN HAMLET MET HAMILTON

A show produced in 24 hours. ARTS, p. 8

BORED OF MARIO?

Boston's Indie game scene at MIT. ARTS, p. 8

WEATHER

Cool, sunny weather locally, Julia spins off the Carolinas

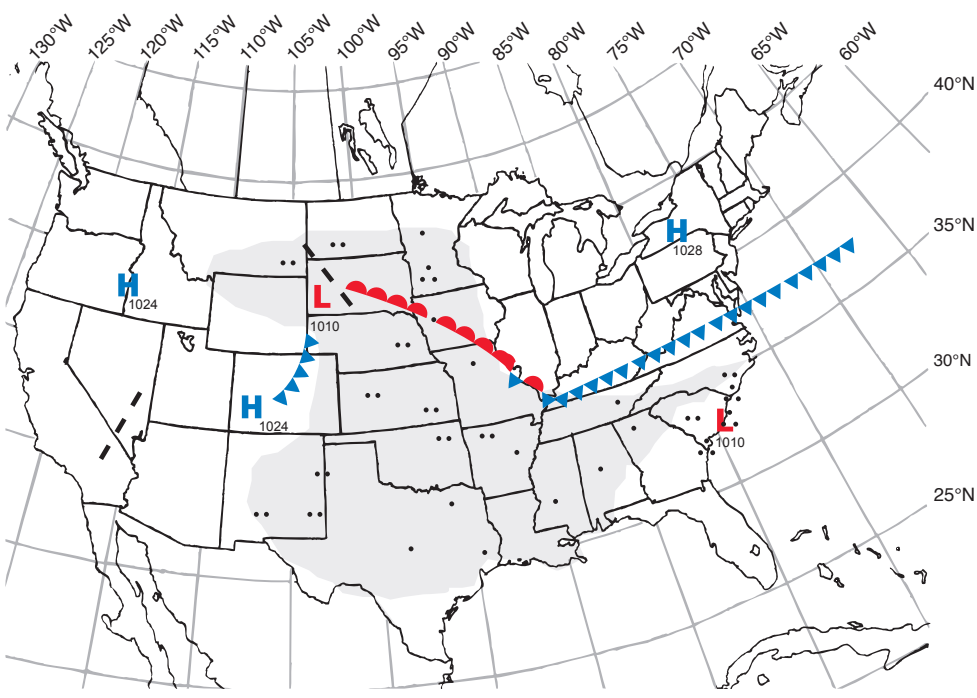
By Jordan Benjamin
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Cooler, seasonable conditions will overspread the region in the wake of Wednesday's cold front. That front brought isolated but much-needed rain to Eastern Massachusetts, which remains in the midst of a persistent severe drought. Locally, clear skies and high temperatures in the mid 70s will persist into the weekend before another system approaches from the west by Sunday, bringing a cold front and another opportunity for precipitation. Near the

Carolina coast, minimal Tropical Storm Julia will continue to meander, bringing squally weather and heavy rain to coastal regions. Julia is forecast to remain weak and nearly stationary over the next several days before weakening and moving onshore. Elsewhere in the nation, rain and thunderstorms will overspread the Plains as a developing system organizes over the central United States and progresses quickly eastward. Otherwise, calm weather and clear skies will be the norm across much of the country as the Autumnal Equinox approaches.

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny. High around 68°F (20°C). Winds NE at 5-15 mph.
Tonight: Clear. Low around 55°F (13°C). Winds SE at 5-10 mph.
Tomorrow: Sunny. High 73°F (23°C). Low 57°F (14°C). Winds S around 5-10 mph.
Saturday: Sunny. High around 76°F (24°C).
Sunday: Chance Rain. High around 75°F (24°C).



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, September 15, 2016

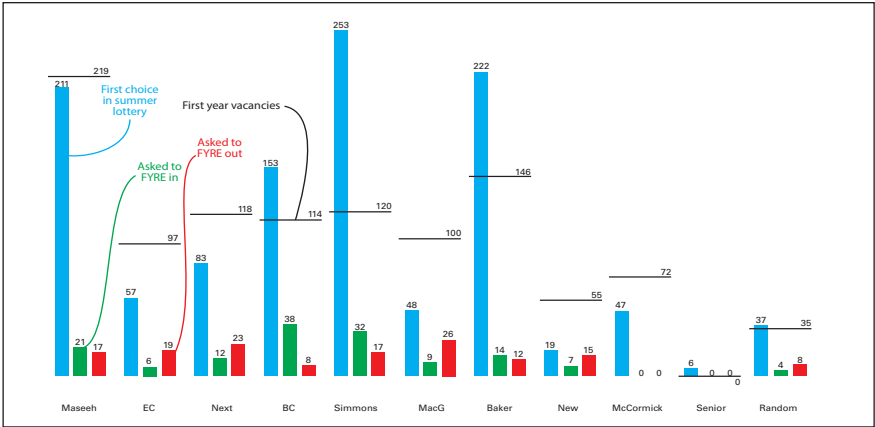
Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough	Snow	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Rain	Thunderstorm
Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	
		Heavy	

CORRECTIONS

A photo of an eye chart hack on the front of last week's paper was incorrectly credited to Robert Rusch. In fact, the photo was taken by Tristan Honscheid.

Last week's FYRE chart mistakenly flipped the number of first-year students wanting to FYRE in and wanting to FYRE out. In addition, there were eight students, not seven, who wanted to FYRE out of Burton-Conner. Finally, the Division of Student Life provided *The Tech* with the number of first-year vacancies for each dorm.

To the right is a chart with the information displayed correctly. In order to better contrast it with last week's chart, the dorms remain ordered by total capacity.



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Class of '20 hopes to move in this spring

In search of unique Haus culture

Senior, from Page 1

culture of the freshman class. Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart PhD '88 explained that Housing worked with the six freshmen to ensure they were granted their second choice in housing. She said that none of the six participated in FYRE in the fall. Some students expressed a desire to reopen Senior House to the Class of 2020 in the spring, citing the nonjudgemental culture and well-maintained facilities among other reasons. Senior House's culture is generally known to be LGBT-positive, sex-positive, and artistic.

S3 Staff Associate Joe Zimakas will be living in Senior House and will have drop-in office hours for residents.

Omar Laris '20 stated, "During my time at CPW, everyone [at Senior House] was super kind and welcoming, and I grew very attached to the dorm very quickly. I left CPW set on MIT mainly because I felt like I'd found a place I would like to live... When the news was announced that Senior House would be closed to freshmen about a week before the application closed, I had a lot of strong feelings. I was angry and sad and generally devastated... It was really disheartening to feel like I was at odds with an administration I hadn't even met yet." Dylan Marlborough '20, after hearing the news, spoke with DormCon about the possibility of opening Senior House to FYRE. Although his petition was unsuccessful, he said, "I hear there's talk of sort of pushing to let freshmen live there in the spring semester, so I'm hopeful." However, Barnhart is still unsure what will happen this spring. She explained that "it is too soon in the turnaround process to speculate about what may happen in the spring or in the 2017-18 Academic Year. Our focus right now is on working with the Senior House community to build on the progress we made together over the summer."

The majority of Senior House-hopefuls are currently living in East Campus. Marlborough explained, "I'm now living in East Campus because I still wanted that East Campus culture, but I liked how Senior House has air conditioning." Barnhart is working with the turnaround team, which met for the first time last Tuesday, to help the Senior House community deal with its perceived issues. The turnaround team is composed of several subcommittees. Headed by Barnhart, the steering committee supervises the overall work of the entire turnaround team. Other members of the steering committee include Head of House Jay Scheib, newly appointed Associate Head of House Kristen Covino, Senior House Co-Presidents Sarah Melvin '18 and James Handy '18, and a Senior House GRT. Subcommittees handle academics and personal-wellbeing, community, self-governance, and space. Following a series of interviews, a search committee brought Covino, former Area Director of Baker House, to serve as Associate Head of House for Senior House. The committee included Dean of Student Life Suzy Nelson. In response to student requests for mental health support, S3 Staff Associate Joe Zimakas will be living in Senior House and will have drop-in office hours for residents. The turnaround team is also working to provide greater mental health support within Senior House. Barnhart hopes to set up "Let's Chat" with the help of MIT Medical and Health Services to provide students with informal, easy access to counselors. In addition, the turnaround team hopes to bring a visiting resident artist into Senior House. An artist will serve as "a positive means of introducing inspired programming to the community" Barnhart said. "This revolving residency will create opportunities for workshops, master classes, dinners, discussions, and studio visits throughout the year." Students have brought up the issue of forced triples in certain dorms while an estimated 30 rooms remain vacant in Senior House. Barnhart explained the rooms are being put to use as housing for the new House Team as well as being converted into two new art studios and a study room.

Gomez, from Page 1

tending to the duties of the presidency amounts to a lot of work. She said she's been attending quite a few meetings and has been taking on a lot of logistical duties, like scheduling meetings, including UA Council meetings. She said that acting as president is helping her get a better understanding of the role of the UA president. The time commitment "hasn't been that bad," she said, "since classes haven't ramped up yet." Liu's Facebook page described the painful condition that necessitated the surgery, explaining that something had been constricting her small intestine and cutting off blood flow. Gomez sent an email informing undergrads of the situation on Sept. 12. —William Navarre

Freshmen were not officially informed

New House student government reassures residents of community

New, from Page 1

news into their FYRE considerations; many looked more seriously into FSILGs. However, given the inconvenience of packing and unpacking and the strength of connections already made, most have chosen to stay for this year. Interviewed freshmen have cited a number of reasons for picking New House, including spacious rooms and facilities, meal plan flexibility, and, most importantly, dorm culture. House 5 resident Alexa Guan '20 explained that she was drawn to the opportunities to interact with people of different cultural backgrounds. Regarding her deci-

sion to stay in the dorm, she emphasized the kindness and support she and the other freshmen have received from the people of New House. Alonso Espinoza Dominguez '20, a Spanish House resident, summarized a feeling that many other New House freshman can echo: "Once here, I was able to witness just how awesome of a community this is, further convincing me I made the right choice." That sense of community will soon be put to the test. The New House government has reassured residents that, in spite of the impending lack of a physical house, they "can be assured that we do take care of each other."

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Solution to Saturday Stumper

from page 6

A	T	S	E	A		I	N	T	E	L		I	S	M		
L	I	M	N	S		P	A	R	T	I	A	L	T	O		
F	L	A	S	K		O	N	E	C	E	L	L	E	D		
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H	I	L	L	E	L				W	A	R	N	E	R		
A	G	F	A			U	S	E	R	A	C	T	I	O	N	
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A	R	E	A	O	F	E	X	P	E	R	T	I	S	E		
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A	L	O	N	E		T	I	M	E		B	U	C	K	S	
C	D	S				T	E	R	P	S		S	T	E	A	K

Solution to Thirteen Times Three

from page 5

A	M	I	S	S		P	F	C	S		S	A	A	B		
C	A	N	I	T		A	L	T	O		T	U	B	A		
E	X	T	R	A		C	A	R	L		I	D	O	L		
		E	I	G	H	T	P	L	U	S	F	I	V	E		
P	A	N				U	S	S		T	I	L	T	E	D	
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F	R	I	A	R		S	U	M	O		S	A	M			
F	I	F	T	E	E	N	M	I	N	U	S	T	W	O		
S	L	Y				S	A	P	S		R	E	R	A	N	
						D	R	O	P		E	N	T	I	R	E
S	T	R	E	E	T		A	S	S			K	E	Y		
T	W	E	L	V	E		P	L	U	S		O	N	E		
R	I	L	E			R	A	T	E		M	O	O	E	D	
U	N	I	T			I	P	A	D		I	N	U	S	E	
M	E	T	E			C	A	R	E		T	O	T	E	S	

Solution to Sudoku

from page 5

9	4	7	1	5	3	6	2	8
5	3	2	8	6	9	4	1	7
8	1	6	2	7	4	5	9	3
6	2	3	5	8	7	1	4	9
7	9	8	4	2	1	3	5	6
1	5	4	9	3	6	7	8	2
3	8	9	7	1	5	2	6	4
4	6	5	3	9	2	8	7	1
2	7	1	6	4	8	9	3	5

Solution to Techdoku

from page 5

6	2	4	5	1	3
4	6	2	3	5	1
3	5	1	2	4	6
2	4	6	1	3	5
1	3	5	6	2	4
5	1	3	4	6	2

A sampling of people you'll meet during a typical dinner at *The Tech*:

Lenny, Course 2

Michelle, Course 3

Jiahao, Course 6

Patricia, Course 8

Vivian, Course 9

Amy, Course 10

Vince, Course 12

Fiona, Course 14

Samir, Course 16

Katherine, Course 17

Claire, Course 18

Jack, Course 19

Tara, Course 20

Mirny, Course 21

Karleigh, CMS

Alex, Course 22

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TRIP DATES

December 26 - January 6th

BIRTHRIGHT GENERAL INTEREST MEETING

Tuesday, September 20

7:30pm

W11 - Main Dining Room

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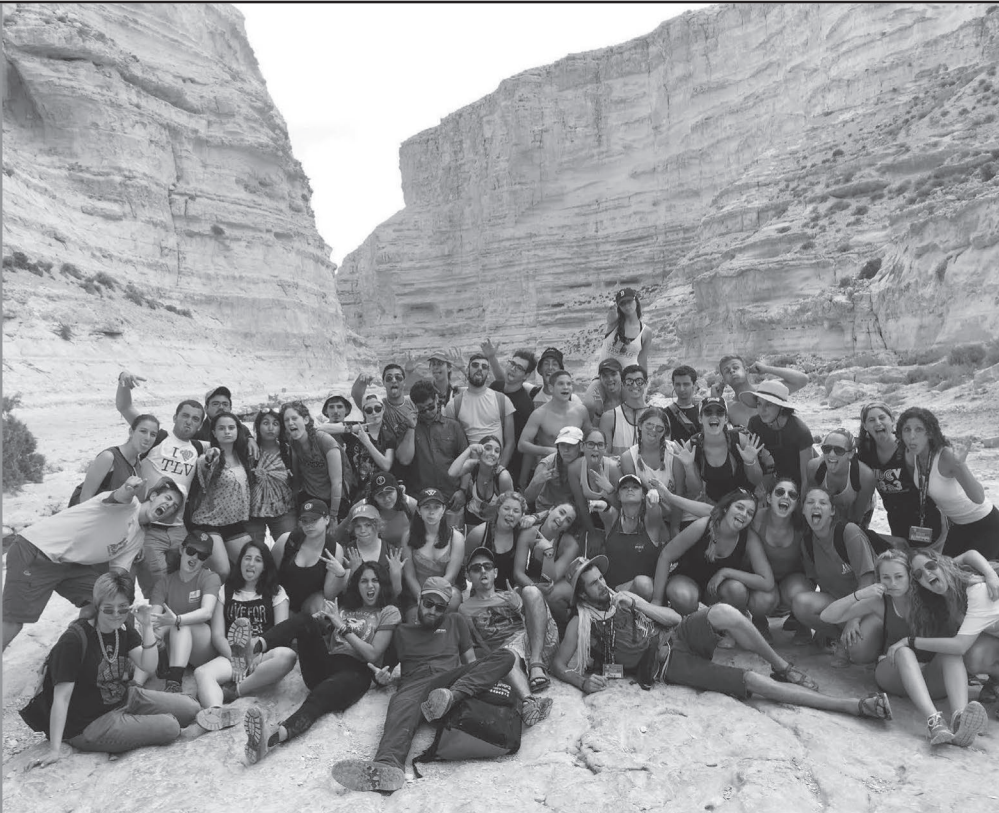
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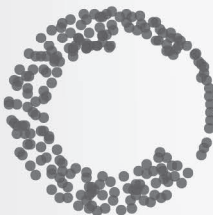


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KENSHO

transform() the world to fit() the future

```
X = SparseAutoEncoder(num_hidden=10).fit_transform(features)
xycoords = TSNE(random_state=17).fit_transform(X)
DBS = cluster.DBSCAN().fit(X)
plt.scatter(xycoords[:, 0], xycoords[:, 1], color=colors[DBS.labels_])
```




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A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE
by Randall Munroe

SPACE TELESCOPES COULD SEE EXOPLANETS BETTER IF THEY USED FREE-FLOATING OPAQUE DISCS TO BLOCK THE STAR'S GLARE.

THEY THOUGHT ABOUT INCLUDING ONE WITH THE WEBB TELESCOPE, BUT CUT IT TO SAVE MONEY.

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NASA, 2018: INITIATING WEBB CALIBRATION. AAAAA! WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!?

WELL... DOES IT HAVE TO BE THEIR DISC?

EH. WHATEVER.

HEY, LOOK, EXOPLANETS!

The New Worlds Mission is already trying to get funding for this, but NASA sponsored their proposal, so it will be hard to catch the telescope people by surprise with it.

Sudoku

Solution, page 3

9							2	8
					9	4		7
8			2	7		5	9	
	2			8		1		
			4		1			
		4		3			8	
	8	9		1	5			4
4		5	3					
2	7							5

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Techdoku

Solution, page 3

288x		20x		5x	3÷
		12x			
6x	5			1-	1-
	360x				
1			6	48x	
15x			4		2

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Thirteen Times Three by Sally R. Stein

Solution, page 3

- ACROSS**

1 Out of whack

6 Sgt.'s subordinates

10 Swedish auto

14 "Hush up!"

15 Female chorus member

16 Large brass instrument

17 Bonus feature

18 Poet Sandburg

19 Much-admired celebrity

20 __ = THIRTEEN

23 Skillet

25 Battleship designation

26 On a slant

27 Net result

30 Suffix for million

31 __ Tuck (Robin Hood pal)

32 Japanese wrestling

34 America's uncle

37 __ = THIRTEEN

41 Crafty

42 Drains of energy

43 Showed again on TV

44 Bit of water
- 46 Unabridged

47 Urban thoroughfare

50 Donkey

52 Door opener

53 __ = THIRTEEN

57 Make angry

58 Evaluate

59 Bellowed like a bovine

62 Army group

63 Apple tablet

64 Currently occupied

65 Parcel (out)

66 Give a darn

67 Carryall bags
- 9 Puzzle answer

10 Suppress

11 Accounting inspection

12 More than

13 Bundled, as hay

21 Castaway's dwelling

22 Knight's title

23 Cream-filled pastries

24 Rainy month

28 Head topper

29 Metallic rock

30 Friends, in France

32 Something easy

33 Baseball official

34 Fail at the plate

35 In the know

36 Cash

38 Known only to few

39 Large coffee brewer

40 Ready to go

44 Remove from a memo

45 Gun, as an engine

46 Double-curve letter

47 Play a banjo

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
		20				21				22				
23	24					25			26					
27			28	29				30						
31						32	33				34	35	36	
37						38				39	40			
41						42				43				
			44	45				46						
47	48	49					50	51				52		
53						54				55	56			
57						58				59			60	61
62						63				64				
65						66				67				

- 48 Cord around a package

49 Ignited again

50 Wedding vow locale

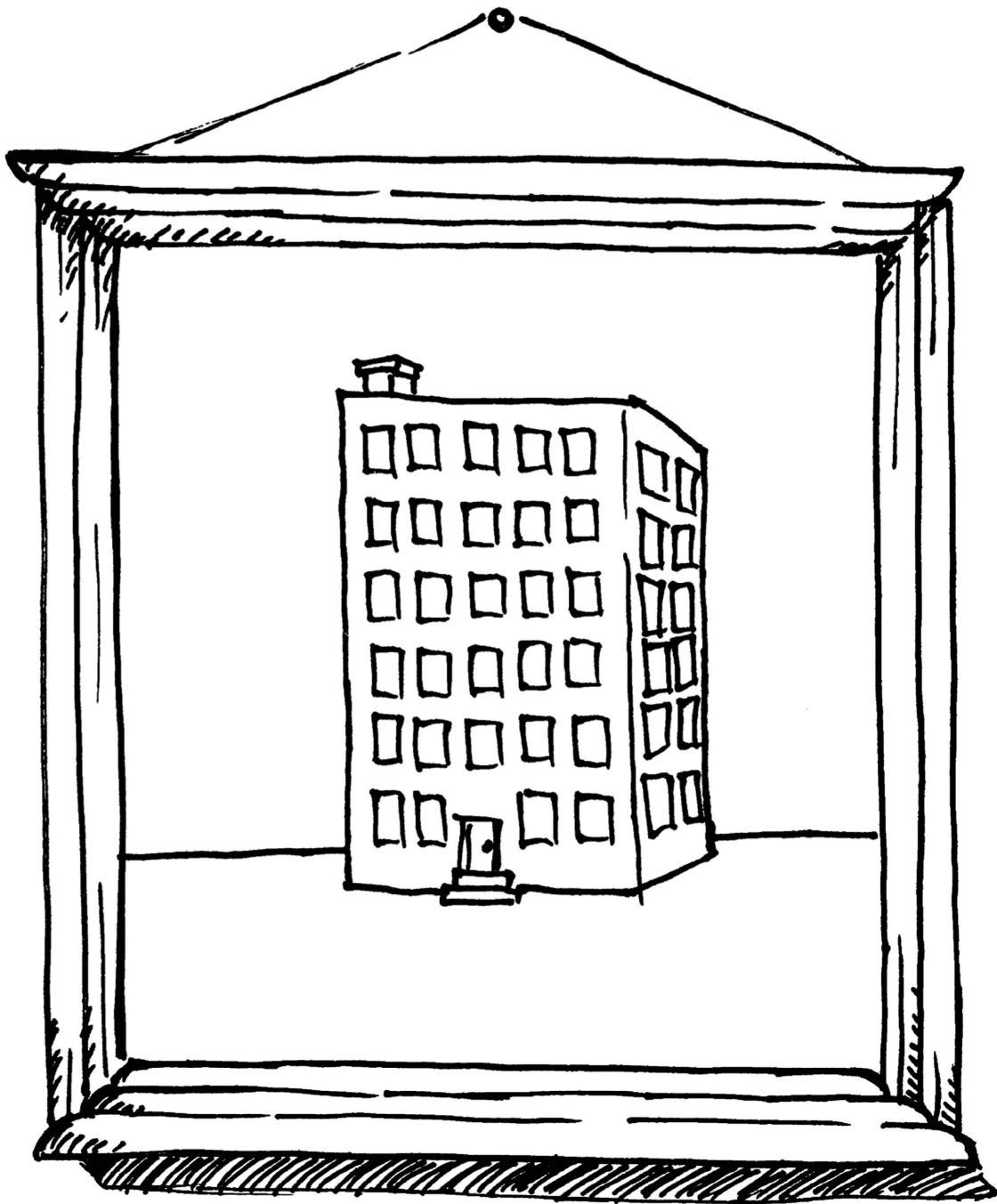
51 Leather variety

54 Largest of the Three Bears
- 55 Leave out

56 Forbidden thing

60 Language ending

61 __ Moines, IA



Solution, page 3

1 Badly thrown
6 Gathering of moles
11 13 Down closer
14 Portrays
15 Fancying
17 Thing to take a belt from
18 Descriptor for some algae
19 Apollo twosome, originally
21 State name, per a European constitution
22 Campus organization once sponsored by B'nai B'rith
24 Time ____
26 Digital imaging giant
27 Click, e.g.
31 Having a plot hole, perhaps
32 Not just look
33 Wheelhouse
39 The Seine at Asnières is one
40 Shade similar to oxblood
41 Three-legged five-footers
45 Confident confirmation
46 Unconfident confirmation
47 Emulates Hercules in his constellation
49 Ultimate basis
50 Pope during Elizabeth I's reign
53 "Watch this space"
56 How many like their muffins
59 Productivity aid, per Psychology Today
60 Dough
61 They'll tie up your 60 Across
62 Big Ten newcomers
63 Round for a course

- 1 Name from Old Norse for a magical creature
- 2 "Call no day happy ___ it is done": Solzhenitsyn
- 3 Nominal damage
- 4 Sopa alternative
- 5 Words on some reps' buttons
- 6 Classic discontinued in 2014
- 7 Spoiler, often
- 8 Oh-so, pretentiously
- 9 Compression indicator
- 10 What you'd be embarrassed to be called on
- 11 62 Across rivals
- 12 3-D, as photos, in NASA-speak
- 13 Antonym of "dated"
- 16 Red ___
- 20 They're unlikely to have strong hands
- 22 Response to a riot
- 23 Musician "on chains" in "Monster Mash"
- 24 Perform, in some SeaWorld shows
- 25 Tablet sold at Staples
- 28 City served by Galileo Airport
- 29 Dow Jones Industrial, 1973-2003
- 30 Precipitate
- 34 Societies, for short
- 35 Tests
- 36 Drive, e.g.
- 37 Move effortlessly
- 38 Hoop's lack
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The *Mind and Hand Book* is the official guide to MIT's expectations of all undergraduate and graduate students, including the policies on academic integrity, alcohol, drugs, hazing, and sexual misconduct.

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Swedish action thriller finally debuts in American theaters

By Tara Lee
ARTS EDITOR

The film revolves around Norwegian snowplow driver Nils Dickman (Stellan Skarsgård), who finds out that his son died of a supposed drug overdose. After discovering that his son was actually murdered

Branded as a “dark comedy,” the film leans heavily on the genre’s first word, but

"This film was such a mixture of genres and tonalities," Skarsgård explained. "A lot of the balance between humor and comedy was [Director] Hans Petter's work in the editing. In the first killing that my character does, it was important that we knew the audience would say at the first hit, 'Yeah.' When I hit him the second time, they still liked it. But it was important that [the hitting] continued so long that it became a little unpleasant. And after that, we established that the violence was something [audiences] wanted to see, but was, at the same time, questionable."

In Order of Disappearance is now playing at the Kendall Square Cinema.

Now Playing

The Shakespeare Ensemble presents a mashup of *Hamlet* and *Hamilton* in just 24 hours

After King Hamlet's mysterious death,

As if things weren't bad enough, Alexander Hamilton (Amelia Smith '17) makes his appearance in 14th-century Denmark — and steals Hamlet's girlfriend, Ophelia

Overall, *Hamlet-on* was a grand success. The characters meshed with impeccable comedic chemistry, and the script was packed with hilariously meta asides that made the audience feel they were in on the joke. Interspersed throughout the play were musical parodies of songs from the *Hamilton*

The show was written by playwrights Megan Goodell '19, Hadrian Merced '20, Lizzie Parizh '17, Amelia Smith '17, and Kaylee Brent '17 within a meager 12-hour time frame beginning at 8 p.m. on Saturday, September 3; rehearsed in the 12 hours that followed; and performed at 8 p.m. on Sunday, September 4.



join@tech.mit.edu

REVIEWER'S NOTEBOOK

Indie game developers and enthusiasts join to celebrate a growing medium

MIT hosted the Boston Festival of Indie Games this weekend

Boston Festival of Indie Games

Johnson Athletic Center

Saturday, September 10, 2016

By Gabe Fields
STAFF WRITER

This past Saturday, September 10, marked the fifth annual Boston Festival of Indie Games (abbreviated as Boston FIG), held in MIT's Johnson Athletic Center. For the better part of a day, attendees and exhibitors alike walked around the venue and played each other's games, both digital and tabletop in format. The games on display numbered over 100, and varied widely in genre, scope, and style. Throughout the day, participants could vote for their favorite games, and at the festival's close there was an awards show, "The Figgies," celebrating the best and most interesting games exhibited.

For those unfamiliar with the term, indie games are those created without backing from a publisher, usually by a small team of developers or even a single person. Because of the way they are made, they are often quite financially risky, but allow creators a great deal of freedom in what they are able to make. The digital indie game scene has sprung up and flourished over the last five to eight years, made possible in part by distribution platforms like Steam that allow developers to sell their games directly to an audience.

Boston FIG is all about celebrating these creators, exposing their games to greater audiences, and fostering a strong and supportive community. The developers exhibiting games ranged from large teams who had left big studios, to single designers devoting all of their time to their games, to even a group of Cornell students showing a game they had made in a game design class. The prevailing feeling of the festival was one of camaraderie, inclusivity, and total enthusiasm about everybody's work.

When the Figgie awards came around, the biggest ones given out were the best in show awards, decided on by a panel in advance, and the audience choice awards, which attendees voted on throughout the day. Tabletop and digital games were evaluated and granted awards separately. The audience choice winner for tabletop games was *Wicked Apples* by Robert Fowler, a game where players “eat” a variety of apples with different abilities and try to trick their friends into eating the dangerous ones. It’s a game with a certain amount of randomness, which adds in strategy and manipulation. The winner of best in show for tabletop was a game called *Faulty Maps*.

In the realm of digital games, the audience choice winner was *Ape Out* by Gabe



NAFISA SYED—THE TECH

An attendee at the Boston Festival of Indie Games tries out Intern Astronaut, a virtual reality game in which players are tasked with piloting a spaceship.

Cuzzillo, a fast-paced, stylistic game where you play as a gorilla escaping captivity and smashing the crap out of everybody trying to stop you. *Ape Out* also won an award for compelling game loops earlier in the night. The winner of best in show was *Perception*, a game which also won an award earlier in the night for worldbuilding and narrative. Created by The Deep End Games, a team of former big studio developers who worked on games like *Bioshock*, *Dead Space*, and *Rock Band*, *Perception* was Kickstarted into existence last year, raising over \$150,000 on the online funding platform. The game takes horror in a completely new direction: you play as a blind woman investigating a haunted house and uncovering its secrets. She can only see by clicking her tongue to echolocate, giving the game a novel visual style with the caveat that if you click to see what's in front of you, it might give you away if there's something (or someone) there. The lessons the designers learned from working on the *Bioshock* games are clearly evident, manifesting themselves in smart level design that subtly guides but doesn't restrict the player, as well as — love it or hate it — audio diaries.

The festival's theme this year was "mosaic," with the intent of promoting and showcasing games that speak to a diversity of experience, accessibility, and intent. This was highlighted by some interesting

choices of award categories, such as the accessibility and inclusion award for digital games, which was won by *HEARTREAD*, a game by Matt Surka that uses only audio to tell its story, making it accessible to people of all seeing abilities. *eBee*, the winner of most innovative tabletop game, had players of all ages create circuits by combining quilted pieces, which were all hand-sewn with embedded electronics. It was created by a team of students from Northeastern University.

The winner of the tabletop award for cultural mosaic was *Blabber Mouthz* by Tricia McLaughlin, a game in which players try to lip read each other, an attempt at capturing the experience of being deaf. Then there was *Anamorphine*, a 3D digital game by Artifact 5 that tries to depict the process of coping with depression and loss, and which won the award for art and experimental digital games. The player is guided through a surrealist landscape and told a story with no voice-overs, only the sound of the main character's dead wife playing the cello to beckon you forward.

The festival also had some games made for virtual reality, my favorite of which was *Intern Astronaut*, a game by Broken Door Studio for the Samsung Gear VR that has the player trying to figure out the controls for the cockpit of a spaceship, which change on every play and involve spin-

ning knobs, flipping switches, and hitting buttons. The frenetic pace of the game, coupled with its developer's absolute enthusiasm in selling its concept, made the experience a lot of fun.

My favorite part of the day by far, and a moment that I feel really captured the spirit of the festival, was when I walked by *Temple Scramble*, a game by Birdwards where one player uses the arrow keys to navigate a temple and get to the treasure, and the other player uses the mouse to rearrange the temple and stop the adventurer. There was a father and son playing, and the son, who was probably around seven years old, was having the most fun I've ever seen somebody have playing a game. He was laughing hysterically, screaming, "Again!" after each time he played, and a small crowd started to gather just to observe his glee in cutting his dad off from the treasure. The woman showing the game was just grinning, and when I went up to ask her about it, she said that the game was actually made by her brother, and she was showing it for him. And that's what the festival was: a little scrappy at the edges, but in the most endearing way. There was a spirit running through the day of playfulness, exploration, inclusivity, and the mutual appreciation of one another's work, because in the indie community, banding together is better than going it alone.



NAFISA SYED—THE TECH

Game enthusiasts at the BFIG play Legacy of Svarog, an RPG/adventure game that draws inspiration from Slavic mythology and allows players to explore, fight, and make story-changing decisions.



NAFISA SYED—THE TECH

Attendees demo the virtual reality game *Swing Star*, a platform game where players attempt to swing from block to block in a quest to ring a mysterious bell and save their home from a technology gone awry.

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Sports

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SportsSPORTS

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Sports

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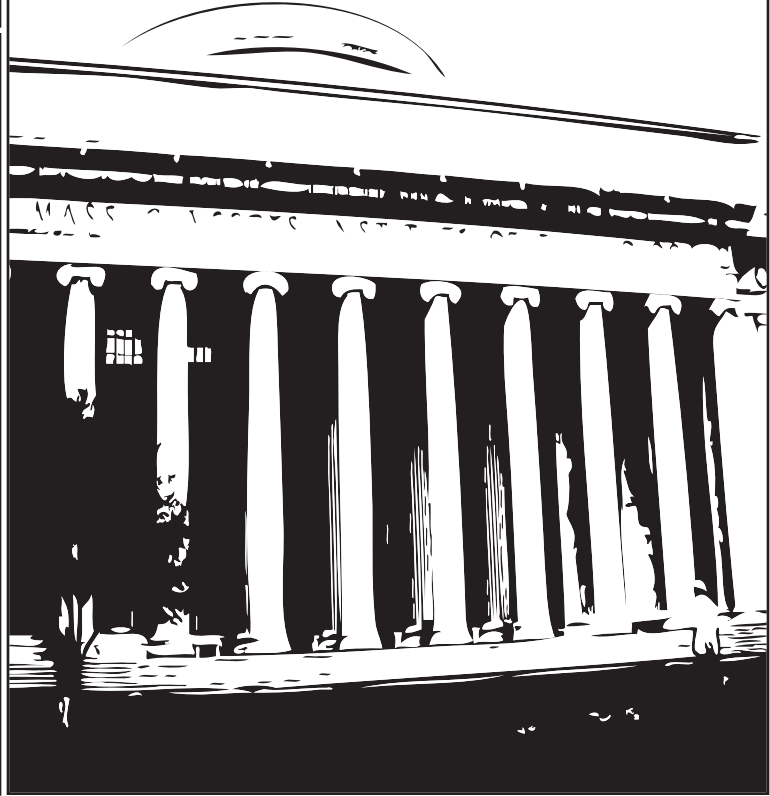
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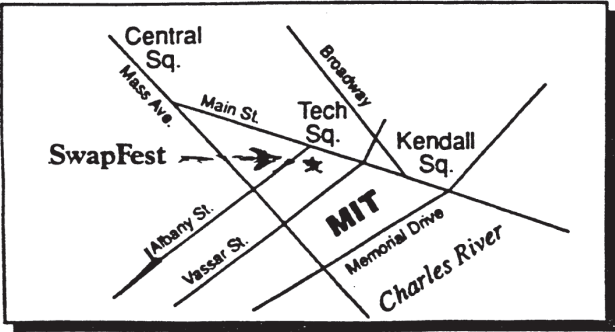
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MIT APPLICATION ESSAYS THAT WORKED

Dancing after a double surgery

Editor’s note: This is part of a series of MIT application essays submitted by students who were later admitted to the Institute. The following prompts are from the 2016-2017 admissions season.

Prompt
We know you lead a busy life, full of activities, many of which are required of you. Tell us about something you do for the pleasure of it. (100 words or fewer)

Response
I love putting on makeup. There is something extraordinarily satisfying about choosing different colors and textures to put on my face exactly how I please.

In addition to daily swoops of eyeliner, I also enjoy technical special effects makeup. For the horror-themed dress up day during homecoming last year, I woke up at 5 a.m. to put on a “creepy doll” makeup look of my own design, created entirely out of liquid latex, toilet paper, eyeshadow, and fake blood.

Whether terrifying or not, makeup is a relaxing and creative way for me to express myself.

Prompt
At MIT, we seek to develop in each member of our community the ability and passion to work collaboratively for the betterment of humankind. How have you improved the lives of others in your community? (This could be one person or many, at school or at home, in your neighborhood or your state, etc.) (200-250 words)

Response
Matsuyo wrapped her aged hands around mine. She had been uncommunicative and unable to feed herself for some time. Slowly, she began mouthing along as I sang “Aki-no-yuuhi,” a traditional Japanese melody. This simple song about foliage in the setting sun had finally broken through the fog of her dementia.

The care managers told me that, from then on, Matsuyo became more alert and began feeding herself again. I am so thankful that I could break down this barrier with my Japanese and music abilities.

Matsuyo is one of the residents living at Sunrise Senior Living: I have spent over 400 hours volunteering there. My responsibilities at Sunrise include spending one-on-one time with residents and leading group activities such as exercise, current events, meditation, flower arrangement, sing-alongs, baking, and gardening. I also began a weekly “Summer Arts and Crafts with Grace” activity and taught crocheting, sculpting, painting, and jewelry making. I sometimes give violin concerts as well. The residents and staff at Sunrise got to know me so well that Sunrise offered me a job (which I unfortunately could not take), and one of the residents, Mama T, refers to me as her granddaughter.

Volunteering has made me appreciate that members of my community are indeed my family, and family members

look out for and support each other. Not only was I given the opportunity to enrich these residents’ lives, but they also in turn greatly enriched mine, in the infinitely rewarding moments involving something as simple as a Japanese melody.

Prompt
Tell us about the most significant challenge you’ve faced or something important that didn’t go according to plan. How did you manage the situation? (200-250 words)

I spent my entire summer on the couch, nauseous, frustrated, and elevating both ankles above heart level at all times.

Response
Theatergoers watching my high school’s spring musical “Anything Goes” may have noticed one eager and aptly-named Angel Grace smiling from under her blonde 30s wig and tap dancing her way through the entire show. However, they were oblivious to the physical and mental exhaustion this energetic performer endured to achieve that place onstage.

I was born with hyperpronated ankles which causes chronic foot pain. After fruitless physical therapy sessions, my doctors recommended surgery. Not one to miss any school, I elected to have both

surgeries the summer before my junior year, only fourteen days apart.

Thus, I spent my entire summer on the couch, nauseous, frustrated, and elevating both ankles above heart level at all times. When school started, I was just starting to use crutches to move around clumsily.

A few weeks after the beginning of school, our choreographer started weekly after-school tap workshops in preparation for “Anything Goes” in the spring. Immediately, I made up my mind to go. While

everyone clicked out their time steps and shuffle off to buffaloes, I sat in a chair in my ace bandages and orthopedic shoes, frustrated, humiliated, and trying to mimic their movements. I was a complete novice, but slowly, slowly, I learned how to tap.

After an entire semester of hard work, the “Anything Goes” cast list was posted, and I received a featured tap role. Throughout the show, Angel Grace’s heels clicked the stage with well-practiced precision, her upturned face glowing with elation and triumph.

—Grace Kuffner ’20

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DSL unaware of changes until reached by *The Tech*

Root issue seems to be miscommunication with dining service provider Bon Appetit

Dining, from Page 1

ed, Cummings said, was to change the apparent superiority of some dorms over others.

The leadership of the Division of Student Life appeared to be confused when *The Tech* relayed news of the much-protested standardization of dining food to them yesterday.

When asked about information disseminated to the student community in two emails from Greta Farrell '18, Next House Dining Chair, Cummings reiterated that the pilot program was initiated by MIT, and was not a decision from "Bon Appetit corporate headquarters," as Farrell's first email claimed.

Upon learning of the standardization of dining food, Cummings said that he would "definitely look into this" and contact Bon Appetit about the issue.

"I'm sorry this... was implemented in a way that was not what we envisioned."

To a surprised Matthew Bauer, DSL's head of communications, *The Tech* confirmed that if, for example, Maseeh was serving chicken parmesan, then every other dorm was also invariably serving chicken parm.

At the time of this article's writing, Bon Appetit had not responded to Bauer's requests for comment, sent soon after the interview.

It is clear that a severe miscommunication occurred between

MIT and Bon Appetit. It is unclear, however, how this miscommunication was carried all the way to policy change before those responsible were apprised of the sit-

uation. Cummings admitted that no MIT personnel had taken part in any internal Bon Appetit meetings, during which decisions on program implementation would have been made.

Cummings said that he and Carton worked with the management team from Bon Appetit over the summer to address these concerns, as part of a tradition of constant communication between Bon Appetit and MIT. Cummings said that Bon Appetit and Carton sometimes hold daily conversations on the student dining experience.

"I'm sorry this... was implemented in a way that was not what we envisioned," Cummings told *The Tech*.

Leading up to this initiative, the DSL had led an effort in conjunction with Dormitory Council dining chairs Kate Farris '17 and Mary K. Delaney '16 to gather data on student feedback to support changes which Cummings said

"[they] knew they would have to make." A focus group which involved students has recently submitted its findings for publication, but Cummings "didn't want to wait another year to make changes."

Students have widely expressed disapproval of the new program on dining hall comment boards, in feedback to Bon Appetit, and in a petition launched by McCormick's dining chair yesterday. Chefs also expressed their discontent over the limitations on their creativity.

The Tech asked Cummings and Bauer if they were entirely unaware of student feedback to the pilot program in its current, mistaken form. They recalled receiving summaries of student dining comment cards and emails sent to foodstuff@mit.edu, several of which were "headscratchers" due to their references to dining food standardization.

Cummings said that it wasn't until Heads of House contacted Nelson, followed by *The Tech's* emailing Carton about the protests and speculations concerning the new dining policy, that they began to say "oh, something's taken a left turn here," and it was not until the

time of the interview that they realized the extent of homogeneity in dining food. Cummings confirmed that Nelson was not at the time aware of the program, which began to take shape during her predecessor's tenure.

Cummings's email yesterday to the dining community marked the first formal announcement by MIT administration about the new program, despite it having taken effect more than a week earlier.

Cummings accepted blame for allowing rumors and misconceptions to proliferate. "I'm going to take that on my shoulders as someone who should've anticipated that this had a cumulative effect of rippling out across the system," he said. He and his office,

"It was never an intention" to standardize dining or "to take away options" such as halal in McCormick and vegetarian in Simmons.

Cummings said, at no point anticipated "a change so noticeable that it demanded [an announcement]."

"My lesson learned here," he continued, "is that we need to recognize that when we're asking partners to potentially alter [their service], that is something we need to present to the community."

During a phone conversation a few hours after the interview, Cummings said that his team "did go to see the menus" and they "can see where the students would be concerned with certain menu items being the same across dorms."

From chef feedback, Cum-

mings gathered that Bon Appetit has not "had time to sit with all their staff."

A dining chef told *The Tech* yesterday that all the chefs had been instructed last week to serve the same main courses for any given meal. He added that two days previously, an order was communicated to the staff that the grill component of each night's dinner would resume being chef's choice, but that the other two components would remain the same across dining halls. The chef was under the impression that the order came through Cummings and the Office of Campus Dining.

When approached about this, Cummings replied that he "wouldn't say that the order that those two dishes should be standardized came from campus dining."

Cummings and Bauer expressed their eagerness for clarity and their desire to avoid putting out the wrong information.

Nelson wrote in an email to *The Tech* that "we will work with students to identify other ways to bring more variety, quality, and value to MIT diners in the short and long term."

"Students should also know that they can come to my office hours and talk to me directly about dining or any other issue," she said. She would like "as many students as possible to drop in." Students can also "share their thoughts about next steps by emailing foodstuff@mit.edu or reaching out to their house dining chair, who will in turn share those thoughts with the House Dining Committee." Bauer said that the pause will go into effect "as soon as possible."



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- Coffee Chat: United States Navy**
11:00am-12:00pm, W20 - 407
- Coffee Chat: Delphix**
11:00am-12:00pm, W20 - West Lounge
- Coffee Chat: Facebook**
12:00-1:00pm, W20 - 491
- Coffee Chat: OpenEye Scientific Software Inc.**
12:00-1:00pm, W20 - 20 Chimneys
- Coffee Chat: Analysis Group**
12:00-1:00pm, W20 - Private Dining Room 2
- Info Session: Aetion**
6:00-7:00pm, 2-190
- Info Session: Microsoft**
8:00-9:00pm, 4-370

TUESDAY, 9/20

- Coffee Chat: Tech Square Trading**
11:00am-12:00pm, W20 - West Lounge
- Coffee Chat: Kensho**
11:00am-12:00pm, W20 - 20 Chimneys
- Coffee Chat: Zx Ventures**
11:00am-12:00pm, W20 - Mezzanine
- Coffee Chat: Refdash**
12:00-1:00pm, W20 - Private Dining Room 2
- Coffee Chat: InterSystems**
12:00-1:00pm, W20 - Private Dining Room 1
- Info Session: athenahealth Inc.**
6:00-7:00pm, 2-190
- Info Session: Woobo Inc.**
8:00-9:00pm, 4-237

WEDNESDAY, 9/21

- Coffee Chat: Palantir Technologies**
11:00am-12:00pm, W20 - 407
- Coffee Chat: Jetbrains**
12:00-1:00pm
- Coffee chat: Oracle**
12:00-1:00pm, 32 - TSMC Lounge
- Coffee Chat: IBM**
1:00-2:00pm, W20 - 407
- Coffee Chat: Hudson River Trading**
1:00-2:00pm, W20 - 20 Chimneys
- Coffee Chat: Appian Corporation**
2:00-3:00pm, W20 - 20 Chimneys
- Info session: Jane Street**
4:00-5:00pm, W20 - 20 Chimneys
- Coffee Chat: Heap**
6:00-7:00pm, W20 - 20 Chimneys
- Info Session: Oracle**
6:00-7:00pm, 2-190
- Info Session: The Boeing Company**
6:00-7:00pm, 4-237
- Info Session: Yext**
7:00-8:00pm, 6-120
- Coffee Chat: Exxon Mobil Corporation**
7:00-8:00pm, W20 - 20 Chimneys
- Info Session: Citadel**
7:00-8:00pm, 4-270
- Info Session: WorldQuant**
8:00-9:00pm, Location: 4-237
- Info Session: Stripe**
8:00-9:00pm, 2-190
- Info Session: Shell Oil Company**
8:00-9:00pm, 32-141
- Info session: Wealthfront Inc**
9:00-10:00pm, 6-120
- Info Session: GoDaddy**
9:00-10:00pm, 4-270

THURSDAY, 9/22

- Coffee Chat: Adobe**
10:00-11:00am, TBA
- Coffee Chat: Squarespace**
10:00-11:00am, TBA
- Coffee Chat: Driver Group**
10:00-11:00am, TBA
- Coffee Chat: Vivint Smart Home**
10:00-11:00am, W20 - 407
- Coffee Chat: Asana**
11:00am-12:00pm, TBA
- Coffee Chat: Blizzard Entertainment**
11:00am-12:00pm, TBA
- Coffee Chat: Lyft**
11:00am-12:00pm, TBA
- Coffee Chat: Quantlab Financial**
11:00am-12:00pm, TBA
- Coffee Chat: iboss Cybersecurity**
12:00-1:00pm, TBA
- Coffee Chat: Quantcast**
12:00-1:00pm, TBA
- Coffee Chat: BAML**
12:00-1:00pm, TBA
- Coffee Chat: General Motors**
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- Coffee Chat: Rev**
1:00-2:00pm, TBA
- Coffee Chat: The MathWorks**
1:00-2:00pm, TBA

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Redfin
Riot Games
Ropes & Gray LLP

Saint-Gobain Innovative
Materials
Salesforce
Sapient
Second Spectrum
Synaptics Inc.
Synopsys Inc
The Aerospace Corporation
The Boston Consulting Group
Tower Research Capital
Volant Trading
Washington Square
Technologies